

Education Career Pathway

MISSOURI ECONOMIC RESEARCH & INFORMATION CENTER
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
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What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are groups of occupations within a career field. Occupations within a pathway share common skills, knowledge, and interests. The pathways use industry-recognized credentials and are examples of how different levels of training or education can help provide opportunities for career advancement.

Missouri Numbers:



4,751 Employers



216,132 Workers



\$50,420 Average Wage

Why Have a Career in Education?

Education professionals are preparing today's students to be tomorrow's workforce. The Education industry has over 4,000 employers in both the public and private sector that provide jobs to over 216,000 workers. Wages in this industry averaged \$50,420 in 2022. Employment declined an average of 0.4 percent per year from 2017 to 2022, losing a total of 4,036 jobs. Employment in the industry was negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020. Education represents 7.7 percent of all public and private sector employment.

From Office Support to Instructors and Administrators, there are a variety of job opportunities in the Education sector. High wages and projected growth make Education occupations a good career choice in Instruction, Support Services, Professional Support Services, and Administrative & Business Support.

Know the Basics

Most employees in the Education sector interact with students and others on a daily basis so being able to communicate effectively, both individually and in groups, is necessary. The ability to work with co-workers as a team is also important. For instructors, knowledge of subject matter, the ability to adapt teaching methods and materials to meet student's needs, and the ability to evaluate student's work and progress are important. Soft skills, such as interpersonal skills, professionalism, and dependability are important in all industries, including Education.

Skills needed for Success:

There are several ways to become a certified educator in Missouri. In addition to the traditional route of completing student teaching and receiving a bachelor's degree in the field of education, there are alternative routes to certification available. An individual with a bachelor's degree in a content area, such as Mathematics or English, can return to a college of education for a program of study that may enable them to take courses and teach simultaneously. In certain middle and high school subjects, an individual with a bachelor's degree can complete a program of study from the American Board of Certification for Teacher Excellence (ABCTE), pass their specific test, and be certified. Current certified teachers can also add new areas of certification by taking Missouri Area Content Exams.

Who's Hiring in Missouri?

Washington University
University of Missouri
Saint Louis University
Missouri State University
Local School Districts



Instruction

Professional Support Services

Now

Short-Term On-the-Job Training

Childcare Workers

Entry: \$24,770 Average: \$28,710

Certificates: Child Care Provider/Assistant**Library Assistants, Clerical**

Entry: \$25,810 Average: \$30,960

Skills: Library Resources, Customer Service, Clerical Duties

Next

Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long-Term On-the-Job Training

Teacher Assistants

Entry: \$24,100 Average: \$32,580

Preschool Teachers, except Special Education

Entry: \$28,570 Average: \$37,580

Certificates: Child Care and Support Services Management
Degrees: Early Childhood Education and Teaching**Library Technicians**

Entry: \$30,580 Average: \$37,760

Occupational Therapy Assistants

Entry: \$54,040 Average: \$64,850

Physical Therapist Assistants

Entry: \$52,160 Average: \$64,620

Degrees: Occupational Therapist Assistant, Physical Therapy Technician/Assistant

Later

Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

Elementary School Teachers

Entry: \$45,790 Average: \$56,150

Secondary School Teachers

Entry: \$44,720 Average: \$56,270

Special Education Teachers, Secondary School

Entry: \$39,910 Average: \$54,040

Degrees: Teacher Education, Special Education and Teaching, Elementary Education**Instructional Coordinators**

Entry: \$47,490 Average: \$61,300

Registered Nurses

Entry: \$60,430 Average: \$71,860

Librarians and Media Collection Specialists

Entry: \$45,760 Average: \$56,430

Degrees: Nursing, Curriculum and Instruction, Library Science, Psychology

Sources:

Lightcast™

Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse
2022 Occupational Employment Survey Wage data, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Top employers data is based on 2022 online job adsDEPARTMENT OF
HIGHER EDUCATION &
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Support Services

Administrative & Business Operations

Now

Short-Term On-the-Job Training

Janitors and Cleaners, except Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners

Entry: \$27,440 Average: \$32,270

Food Preparation Workers

Entry: \$24,740 Average: \$28,160

Security Guards

Entry: \$28,710 Average: \$37,620

Certificates: Truck and Bus Driver/Commercial Vehicle Operator, Certified Protection Officer

General Office Clerks

Entry: \$29,770 Average: \$41,280

Receptionists & Information Clerks

Entry: \$27,040 Average: \$32,130

Data Entry Keyers

Entry: \$28,380 Average: \$33,140

Certificates: Business Administration Certificates

Next

Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long-Term On-the-Job Training

Maintenance and Repair Workers, General

Entry: \$34,650 Average: \$46,040

Food Service Managers

Entry: \$44,990 Average: \$62,900

First-Line Supervisor of Housekeeping & Janitorial Workers

Entry: \$32,700 Average: \$42,780

Certificates: Restaurant, Culinary, and Catering Management/Manager

Certificates: Building Maintenance, ServSafe Food Protection Manager Certification

Secretaries & Administrative Assistants

Entry: \$29,790 Average: \$38,510

Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks

Entry: \$35,250 Average: \$45,470

Computer User Support Specialists

Entry: \$45,380 Average: \$60,790

Degrees: Business Administration & Management, Accounting, Computer Science

Later

Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

General & Operations Managers

Entry: \$53,990 Average: \$103,760

General & Operations Managers

Entry: \$53,990 Average: \$103,760

Human Resources Specialists

Entry: \$45,810 Average: \$65,080

Degrees: Business Administration & Management

Degrees: Business Administration & Management, Human Resources Development

Sources:

Lightcast™

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2022 Occupational Employment Survey Wage data, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
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